

HILO AS A CENTER

Franklin Austin's Plea for Railways on Hawaii.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND

Ten Years Ago and the Present—Coffee and Elevation—A Belt Line—Freight Arrangements

Franklin H. Austin, a native of the Islands, who went to the States about ten years ago, is back to remain permanently. He returned from Hilo, his old home, on the Kinau Saturday night. Mr. Austin talks very entertainingly on the past and present of the big island and its metropolis, and also gives a glance into the future.

"I cannot say that the wonderful changes that I found in Hilo are very much of a surprise to me, as they might have been expected. Before leaving here, some ten years ago, I had, in connection with a business I had in hand at that time, made a thorough investigation of the future prospects of Hilo and surrounding country, to enable me to report these conditions to foreign capitalists, and it is not too much to say that I had the forests above Hilo populated in my imagination to even a greater extent than I find today.

"The coffee industry, which has sprung up around Hilo and along the Volcano roads, seems to be wonderfully successful as far as they have gone. I do not believe that coffee should be grown except under shade and at an altitude above 1,400 feet. I think there are sufficient indications that coffee planted under any other conditions will be unsafe.

"The production of sugar in the Hilo and Hamakua districts has more than trebled since I left, but from the progress then being made by these estates, this increase, as far as sugar is concerned, might easily have been predicted. There are still larger fields for the development of sugar in the direction of Puna, upon land which, to my mind, is entirely unsuited for coffee cultivation. Where coffee is now a success, I believe it would be a piece of vandalism to destroy the trees for the sake of following the present boom in sugar.

"The point of shipping sugar direct and bringing in supplies, which was so strenuously combated by the merchants of Honolulu before I went away, as at last was inevitable, has broken all barriers and made itself a necessity; in fact, I notice that two of the largest houses in Honolulu have accommodated themselves to this necessity, and established themselves in Hilo. There is now at this moment tonnage lying in Hilo, sufficient to transport 20,000 tons of sugar for shipment, as fast as it becomes available."

"What is your opinion of Hilo's future?"

"That is a difficult question to answer without taking four or five columns of your paper to do so," replied Mr. Austin. "But the future progress, or what I fear may result in a boom, will find its greatest point of activity at Hilo. That great body of land lying north of the present sugar estates along the Hilo coast, as far as Waipua and lying above the forest or the upper part of the forest, on the side of Mauna Kea and including the vast plains of Waimea, is all suitable for cultivation and directly tributary to Hilo, provided railroad extension is properly made. A belt system would give the highest efficiency to the railroad service and at the same time bring this vast country to the highest state of development. The belt line should be constructed: First, along the Hilo-Hamakua coast to Kawaihae, thence returning through Waimea to Hilo, above the forests upon the slopes of the mountain; again, a second loop or belt should be extended from Hilo through Puna to the volcano, returning through the upper Olua coffee belt to Hilo, above the volcano road, thus making Hilo the center of four lines of railway and giving the highest possible development to all the area on the island of Hawaii, which is susceptible to the highest development. Spurs of railway should then be run at either end of these loops to Kona from Waimea, between Waimea, Hualalai and Mauna Kea, and another spur from the volcano into Kona to Punaluu. This would afford the greatest economy in railroad development in opening up the greatest body of land that still remains in these islands susceptible to settlement and sugar development.

Deposition Testimony.

In the suit of Jno. H. Soper and E. S. Valentine vs. B. F. Dillingham and the Waialua Agricultural Co., the parties agree that either party may use as testimony the depositions which shall be filed by the plaintiffs in the three pending cases of McCandless Bros., Hopper and J. A. McCandless vs. Waialua Agricultural Co., et al.

A PROPOSED REFORM.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

A drastic and heretofore unheard-of curfew ordinance is pending in the Kokomo, Ind., city council. One section puts the age limit at forty-five years, and another, directed against gadabout mothers and card parties, reads as follows:

"It is further provided that when a child comes home at the prescribed hour and finds its mother not present to hear its prayers and put it to bed, it shall report such dereliction to the mayor of the city, whose duty it shall

be to search for the absent mother until found, and if it should be shown that the mother was not on an errand of necessity or mercy it shall be the duty of the mayor to administer a reprimand to said mother, take her hand and place at the card table and proceed to finish the game. Should the mayor, in his official function at the card table, win any favors, the same shall go to the child giving the information."

Hilo Hotel Society.

The Hilo hotel, with the genial Mr. H. F. Glaze as manager, gave a very swell ball on the occasion of Washington's birthday which was attended by about 150 couples. The hotel was tastefully decorated and the affair did great credit to the management. These social gatherings will be of frequent occurrence under the new management. Dancing was indulged in until 3 a. m.

STORM ON MAUI

The Lightning Flashes and Strikes Near Haleakala.

Wind Vane Struck Off and Some Shingles Removed—Burglar Gains Profit—Shipping.

(Special Correspondence.)

MAUI, Feb. 25.—Yesterday afternoon, the 24th, a heavy electrical storm visited the east slope of Haleakala, extending all the way from Spreckelsville up the Kula mountain, the lightning flashing most frequently around Puanene, as the natives call the Hawaiian Commercial Company's plantation. At Puna one bolt of electricity with a heavy shock struck off the vane from the Foreign church and shattered the shingles a part of the way down the steeple. The thunder and lightning played accompaniment to a very heavy shower of rain that measured two inches in lower localities and one inch higher up the mountain.

Sunday, the 19th, the living rooms of Wa Kee, situated in the rear of his restaurant on Market street, Wailuku, were visited by a burglar, who purloined money, jewelry, etc., to the value of between \$200 and \$300. A Chinese named Ah Mi has been arrested and will be brought before the police court on the 27th.

Wednesday, the 22nd, Dr. John Weddick, of Wailuku, was thrown from his horse and was so badly bruised that he has been confined to his bed for several days.

J. Q. Wood, of Honolulu, has been viewing Makawao district under the guidance of C. H. Dickey.

Sub-Land Agent W. O. Aiken spent several days of the present week at Nahiku. He was accompanied by Mr. C. D. Loveland, of Hamakua, who will return by steamer next week. Mr. Loveland does not admire the roads leading to Nahiku.

The regular evening of the Makawao Literary Society was postponed last night, the 24th, on account of bad weather.

Deputy Sheriff Scott of Wailuku is experimenting with silk worms. He has hatched out about a thousand of them and wishes to ascertain what quality of silk can be produced from the variety of mulberry tree now growing in Wailuku.

Auditor Robinson has been looking over the books of Haleakala Ranch recently.

Corporal Raven and Private Harkley, U. S. Volunteers, spent Wednesday night, the 22nd, at the crater of Haleakala. They have been entertained at Kalanui.

Monday, the 20th, an old kamaaina named Samuel M. Davis died at his home in Kokomo.

Monday, the 20th, the schooner Allen A. Schaege, master, arrived, 16 days from San Francisco, with a general cargo for H. C. Co., Haku Sugar Co., Pala plantation and Alexander & Baldwin.

At present in Kahului there are three vessels waiting to discharge their cargoes, viz: the Mary Winkelman, Allen A. and H. C. Wright. The schooner Olga has finished and will take on sugar.

At the port of Hana the schooner Emma Claudina is now discharging a cargo of lumber for Hana plantation. The Ollie Flord departed yesterday for San Francisco with a cargo of Hana plantation sugar.

Weather—Regular trades blowing and occasional showers.

COFFEE CONVENTION.

To Be a Big Mass Meeting of Growers at Hilo in March.

Messrs. Eagan and Ragsdale, prominent Olua coffee planters, are in the city attending to some business matters. Mr. Eagan states that a general mass convention of all the coffee planters on the island of Hawaii has been called to meet in Hilo on March 15.

Several questions are to be discussed concerning coffee cultivation. The blight question will not be overlooked. The matter of giving careful grading to coffee will receive serious consideration. It is proposed to appoint an expert whose duty it will be to inspect all coffee and grade it for shipment.

The four drunken sailors on the Iwalandi who gave Capt. Gregory some trouble while that steamer was at Waimea last Wednesday, were sent on the reef for six weeks by the magistrate at that place.

NOW A SENATOR

The One Nominee Receives Seventy-Nine Votes.

COUNTRY RETURNS NOT IN

Rather Unique Affair—Not a Rip-rope of Excitement—Some Quite Small Figures.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Theo. F. Lansing is now a Senator. He was formally elected yesterday to a vacant seat.

The result was easy to foretell. There was no opposition. The day was in every way suitable to the result, as no better could be desired. The election was the quietest ever held here. It had been estimated that there would be about 150 votes cast. Just about half this number exercised the highest political prerogative given to man, that of suffrage. There were no rows, no attempts at stuffing the ballot box, no bribery. Everything was calm and serene. It was one of these model elections such as the idealists pant for.

Business proceeded just as usual. No houses closed. Even the Government employes didn't get a holiday. The courts sat all day, the fact that there was an important election being held making no difference. Banks were open as usual.

There was no delay about getting the returns. The polls closed at 5 o'clock and all the city precincts had their returns up to the electoral office by about five minutes after the hour. It is said that one precinct had the record on account of getting the returns to the office by 4:55. This shows that the men in charge of the election were very capable.

Old kamaainas took advantage of the fact that there was an election on by detailing some of the scenes of days gone by, when every vote was needed and was obtained at any cost. The telephones were not in working order with Waianae and Koolaulou, so it was not possible to obtain the results from those precincts. It is not thought, however, that they will change the general result. Mr. Lansing is now elected and Senator is his proper title. The vote of the district, with the exception of the two precincts noted, is as follows:

Pre. Fourth Rep. Dis.—
1—Government Nursery 2
2—Beretania street school 20
3—Reservoir Bldg. Nuuanu Ave. ... 2
4—Royal School 5
5—Kapualua Building 6
6—Engine House No. 1 10

Pre. Fifth Rep. Dis.—
1—Kaneohe Court House 6
2—Koolauloa Court House 3
3—Waialua Court House 3
4—Waianae Court House 3
5—Reading Room Ewa Plantation... 6
6—Ewa Court House 9
7—Reform School 3
8—Tramway Building 1
9—Kaula School 3
10—Chinese Engine House 3

Total 79

HIGHER FREIGHT RATES

Three Pacific Lines Put Forth New Schedules.

The Northern Pacific, the Canadian Pacific and the Nippon-Yusen Kaisha steamship lines are reported to have agreed to a general advance in rates on freight from their respective American terminals to the Asiatic ports of Yokohama, Kobe and Hongkong.

The advance is not heavy, but covers practically all classes of freight. This is the outcome of the meeting held on the Sound recently. The rates, as agreed to, on the principal classes of freight carried by the companies, are as follows:

Paper, \$6.50 a ton, measurement; pulp, \$5.50 a ton, measurement; bran, \$12 a ton, weight; oats and hay, \$15 a ton, weight; salt fish, \$6 a ton, weight; beer, 75 barrels or cases, \$7 a ton, measurement; canned goods, etc., \$8 a ton measurement; lead, 50 a ton, weight; miscellaneous, 55 a ton, weight or measurement (ship's option); flour, \$10 (Mexican) a ton, weight. The rates as quoted, are all in gold with the exception of the rate on flour, which is in Mexican money. The American or gold quotation on flour would, therefore, be about \$5 a ton. It is not thought that the advance in rates will affect the movement of products to the Orient. Every steamer of the three companies to the agreements announced in the foregoing have been sailing with every inch space taken for some considerable time past.

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1 size, 1 style, with or without Water Coil.

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